

PELLAGRA EASY TO CATCH, SAY EXPERTS

Disease Infectious, but Investigation Shows It Can Be Controlled.

NOT DUE TO POOR FOOD

New York Post Graduate School Makes Important Discoveries.

Pellagra is infectious, but is not caused by an unbalanced or inadequate diet, and the most effective means of combating it is by installing efficient sewage disposal systems in the communities where it is prevalent, says a report issued yesterday by the commission of the Post Graduate Medical School and Hospital, Second Avenue and Twentieth Street, that has been conducting an extensive investigation in South Carolina.

The importance of these discoveries, it was pointed out, can better be appreciated when it is recognized that more than 100,000 persons in this country are known to be suffering from the disease. There probably are many more victims, as several of the States in which it is prevalent are not in the Federal registration area, and the extent of the disease there can only be approximated.

The facts disclosed by a searching inquiry and long continued observation in Spartanburg county, S. C., where scores of persons have died from pellagra, prove conclusively, a member of the commission said last night, that, contrary to the belief generally prevailing in the North, the disease is infectious.

It spreads through lack of proper sewage facilities, and in the opinion of the investigators cannot be contracted by persons merely because they do not have a proper diet.

The greatest immediate value that society will derive from the findings of the Post Graduate Hospital Commission, it was said, is that the disease can be controlled.

That is demonstrated by the result of the practical testing of the commission's theory. The commission holds that since the disease spreads most rapidly where persons are crowded together in places with surface sewage disposal, and whereas in communities with more adequate water carriage systems new cases seldom develop, the way to check its spread is by adopting sanitary disposal methods.

Three Years Investigation.

To prove the theory three years work in Spartan Mills, an industrial district in the city of Spartanburg, has just been completed. An efficient sewerage system was built. Thorough records of all cases were kept. That community, consisting of 2,000 persons, was regarded as one of the worst pellagra foci in South Carolina. Scores of persons there until recently were newly attacked by the disease each year.

The result of sewerage of the community is that although numerous old cases still were present this year, no one living within the sewerage district contracted the disease in the last twelve months, with a single exception.

The only new victim was a woman on the edge of the city of the community, just across the street from a house with surface drainage in which a chronic pellagra sufferer lived. From the worst type of pellagra focus the district had been changed to a community in which the disease no longer spreads.

The reduction in the number of cases of the disease in Spartan Mills has impressed the owners of another large mill in the county, who have begun an active fight on the epidemic in their community by installing an efficient disposal system.

The commission has not discovered the cause of pellagra, but asserts that until scientific research reveals what produces the disease, which caused more deaths in South Carolina in the first half of 1915 than any other malady, the most advisable course to take is to sewer towns where it exists and thus save the health and lives of many persons who otherwise might contract it.

Malice Not Responsible.

Early in its investigation the commission decided that the use of maize as a food could not be regarded as the essential cause of pellagra, nor could any particular element of the diet be designated logically as the cause.

This conclusion upset the belief that persons subsisting chiefly on maize contracted the disease as a result of the "poisonousness" of that food. Their diet, a theory which has been popular in Italy, and to which the American public has clung tenaciously.

The commission found pellagra more prevalent among the poor and ill nourished, but nevertheless encountered typical cases among the well to do and even among the apparently well nourished.

It inaugurated a hygienic-dietetic treatment of many patients. The sufferers were brought to the Post Graduate Hospital, where they were treated by rest, careful nursing and a proper diet. The results of this regime proved excellent. The patients simply died. There was no medication. The treatment was similar to that given to tuberculous patients.

To its own satisfaction, at least, the commission disproved early the theory that the disease is due to the bite of the Buffalo gnat, more commonly known as the black fly, and the hypothesis that it is caused by the presence of certain minerals in drinking water.

"Our studies," one of the investigators said, "have proved pellagra is infectious. Most of the new cases observed arose in the immediate vicinity of a pre-existing pellagra sufferer. For the first time, the significance of these facts in respect to the way in which pellagra spreads has been pointed out."

The commission, which began its work in 1912, interested several branches of the Federal government in the investigation of this disease, and was instrumental in obtaining Congressional action to support the quite separate and independent special work of the Public Health Service on this problem.

WAR HITS ARMY OF SMOKERS.

Clares to Go Up and Cigarettes to Be Fewer in Packages.

The cost of smoking and chewing is advancing along with the cost of living, according to John F. Whelan, vice-president of the United Cigar Stores Company, and the situation will be worse after the first of the year. Except in the case of cigars, the advance will not be a direct raise in price, Mr. Whelan says, but will mean that the number of cigarettes in a package will be less, and that the size of plugs will be cut down.

The war is partly responsible, according to Mr. Whelan. Other causes have been costly strikes, the fact that many cigar makers have gone to the munition factories, also that bands and labels formerly made in Germany are now made here at increased cost, and that it costs more to make the boxes. Cigars now selling three and two for a quarter will probably be sold for a quarter and a half after the first of January, Mr. Whelan says.

Attention is Directed to our Shoe Advertisement in the Rotogravure Section.

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We are showing the largest assortments in our history of Evening Wraps, Dance and Dinner Frocks, Luxurious Fur Coats and separate Furs—and the correct accessories of Dress; marked by that style distinction and good taste which the discriminating purchaser requires.

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Fashionable Coats of Bradley Cloth of Velour, some plain, others beautifully trimmed with Hudson Seal (selected dyed Muskrat). According to materials. **42.50 to 79.50**

Handsome Evening Frock, cloth of silver, showing the new straight line flounce and metal lace, corsage of silver cloth and lace, with hand made satin flowers. **Copy of a Foreign Model. 145.00**

Stunning Evening Gown, opalescent beaded, dress of net and metal over lace; deep crush girde of silver ribbon, metal lace, half sleeves. **Copy of a Lanvin Model. 195.00**

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Misses' Fashionable Fur Trimmed Coats, of Wool Velour in the season's favored colorings. Sizes 14 to 17 years. **35.00**

Misses' Fur Trimmed Dressy Tailored Suits, of Wool Velour or Jersey cloth, unusual models, sizes 14, 16, 17 years. **35.00**

Misses' Wool Jersey Dresses, clever models, in bright and dark colorings, suitable for all sport, street or indoor wear, sizes 14, 16, 17. **25.00**

Misses' Evening or Dance Frocks, of soft shimmering Satin in light pastel colorings. Sizes 14, 16, 17. **28.50**

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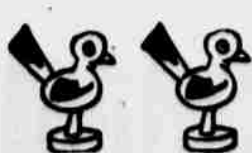
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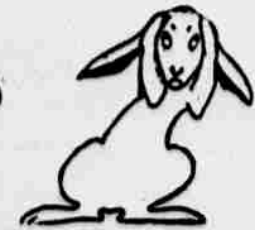
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Suitable for sport or auto wear, **\$69.50 and \$87.50**

Natural Muskrat Coats

With collar and cuffs trimmed with natural raccoon or dyed muskrat, **\$87.50 and \$98.50**

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Embroidered net Laces in cream and ecru. Widths 18 to 36 inches. **95c to \$1.95**
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Embroidered Net Flouncings
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All-over Venise
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All at reductions even more radical than those quoted on the white Laces.

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Widths 10, 18 and 36 inches.
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Ground Floor